

Point of Comparison	Articles of Confederation	Constitution
Formal name of the nation	The United States of America	Not specified, but referred to in the Preamble as “the United States of America”
Legislature	Unicameral, called Congress	Bicameral, called Congress, divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate
Members of Congress	A delegation between two and seven members per state	Two senators per state, representatives apportioned according to population of each state
Voting in Congress	One vote per state delegation	One vote per representative or senator
Appointment of members	All appointed by state legislatures in the manner each legislature directed	Representatives elected by popular vote; senators appointed by state legislatures (which was switched to direct election by the Seventeenth Amendment of 1913)
Term of legislative office	One year	Two years for representatives, six years for senators
Term limit for legislative office	No more than three of every six years	None

When Congress is not in session	A Committee of States had the full powers of Congress	The president of the United States can call on Congress to assemble.
Chair of legislature	President of Congress	Speaker of the House of Representatives; vice president is president of the Senate.
Executive	None; the “president” was simply presiding officer of Congress.	President

National judiciary	Maritime judiciary established—other courts left to states	Supreme Court established as well as other federal courts Congress deems necessary
Adjudicator of disputes between states	Congress	Supreme Court
New states	Admitted upon agreement of nine states (special exemption provided for Canada)	Admitted upon agreement of majority of Congress
Amendment	When agreed upon by all states	When agreed upon by two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of states

Navy	Congress authorized to build a navy; states authorized to equip warships to counter piracy	Congress authorized to build a navy; states not allowed to keep ships of war
Army	Congress to decide on size of force and to requisition troops from each state according to population	Congress authorized to raise and support armies
Power to coin money	United States and the states	United States only
Taxes	Apportioned by Congress, collected by the states	Levied and collected by Congress
Ratification	Unanimous consent required	Consent of nine states required

POINT OF COMPARISON	ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	CONSTITUTION
Formal name of the nation		
Legislature		
Members of Congress		
Voting in Congress		
Appointment of members		
Term of legislative office		
Term limit for legislative office		
When Congress is not in session		
Chair of legislature		

Executive		
National judiciary		
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Amendment		
Navy		
Army		
Power to coin money		
Taxes		
Ratification		

The United States of America	The United States of America	The United States of America
Unicameral, called Congress	Unicameral, called Congress	Unicameral, called Congress
A delegation between two and seven members per state	A delegation between two and seven members per state	A delegation between two and seven members per state
One vote per state delegation	One vote per state delegation	One vote per state delegation
All appointed by state legislatures in the manner each legislature directed	All appointed by state legislatures in the manner each legislature directed	All appointed by state legislatures in the manner each legislature directed
One year	One year	One year
No more than three of every six years	No more than three of every six years	No more than three of every six years
A Committee of States had the full powers of Congress	A Committee of States had the full powers of Congress	A Committee of States had the full powers of Congress
President of Congress	President of Congress	President of Congress
None; the “president” was simply presiding officer of Congress.	None; the “president” was simply presiding officer of Congress.	None; the “president” was simply presiding officer of Congress.

Maritime judiciary established—other courts left to states	Maritime judiciary established—other courts left to states	Maritime judiciary established—other courts left to states
Congress	Congress	Congress
Admitted upon agreement of nine states (special exemption provided for Canada)	Admitted upon agreement of nine states (special exemption provided for Canada)	Admitted upon agreement of nine states (special exemption provided for Canada)
When agreed upon by all states	When agreed upon by all states	When agreed upon by all states
Congress authorized to build a navy; states authorized to equip warships to counter piracy	Congress authorized to build a navy; states authorized to equip warships to counter piracy	Congress authorized to build a navy; states authorized to equip warships to counter piracy
Congress to decide on size of force and to requisition troops from each state according to population	Congress to decide on size of force and to requisition troops from each state according to population	Congress to decide on size of force and to requisition troops from each state according to population
United States and the states	United States and the states	United States and the states
Apportioned by Congress, collected by the states	Apportioned by Congress, collected by the states	Apportioned by Congress, collected by the states
Unanimous consent required	Unanimous consent required	Unanimous consent required

Not specified, but referred to in the Preamble as “the United States of America”	Not specified, but referred to in the Preamble as “the United States of America”	Not specified, but referred to in the Preamble as “the United States of America”
Bicameral, called Congress, divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate	Bicameral, called Congress, divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate	Bicameral, called Congress, divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate
Two senators per state, representatives apportioned according to population of each state	Two senators per state, representatives apportioned according to population of each state	Two senators per state, representatives apportioned according to population of each state
One vote per representative or senator	One vote per representative or senator	One vote per representative or senator
Representatives elected by popular vote; senators appointed by state legislatures (which was switched to direct election by the Seventeenth Amendment of 1913)	Representatives elected by popular vote; senators appointed by state legislatures (which was switched to direct election by the Seventeenth Amendment of 1913)	Representatives elected by popular vote; senators appointed by state legislatures (which was switched to direct election by the Seventeenth Amendment of 1913)
Two years for representatives, six years for senators	Two years for representatives, six years for senators	Two years for representatives, six years for senators
None	None	None
The president of the United States can call on Congress to assemble.	The president of the United States can call on Congress to assemble.	The president of the United States can call on Congress to assemble.

Speaker of the House of Representatives; vice president is president of the Senate.	Speaker of the House of Representatives; vice president is president of the Senate.	Speaker of the House of Representatives; vice president is president of the Senate.
President	President	President
Supreme Court established as well as other federal courts Congress deems necessary	Supreme Court established as well as other federal courts Congress deems necessary	Supreme Court established as well as other federal courts Congress deems necessary
Supreme Court	Supreme Court	Supreme Court
Admitted upon agreement of majority of Congress	Admitted upon agreement of majority of Congress	Admitted upon agreement of majority of Congress
When agreed upon by two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of states	When agreed upon by two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of states	When agreed upon by two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of states
Congress authorized to build a navy; states not allowed to keep ships of war	Congress authorized to build a navy; states not allowed to keep ships of war	Congress authorized to build a navy; states not allowed to keep ships of war
Congress authorized to raise and support armies	Congress authorized to raise and support armies	Congress authorized to raise and support armies
United States only	United States only	United States only
Levied and collected by Congress	Levied and collected by Congress	Levied and collected by Congress
Consent of nine states required	Consent of nine states required	Consent of nine states required